IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-18 and add new claims 19-27 as follows:

1. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system for detecting an alteration of image data obtained by photographing an object, comprising:

a camera including an image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object, and an encryption processing unit for generating alteration detection data using a built-in encryption key from the image data picked up by the image pickup unit; and

an alteration detection unit for decrypting the alteration detection data generated by the encryption processing unit using a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, and for detecting whether the image data has been altered based on a result of the decryption;

wherein the encryption processing unit generates the alteration detection data based on the encryption key, the image data, and data for identifying a photographer.

2. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 1,

wherein the encryption processing unit also utilizes data obtained by application of a predetermined function to the image data to generate the alteration detection data.

3. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 2,

wherein the alteration detection unit detects whether or not the image data has been altered by comparing the data obtained by application of the predetermined function to the image data with data obtained by decrypting the alteration detection data using the decryption key.

4. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system for detecting an alteration of image data obtained by photographing an object, comprising:

a camera including an image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object, and an encryption processing unit for generating alteration detection data using a built-in encryption key from the image data picked up by the image pickup unit; and

an alteration detection unit for decrypting the alteration detection data generated by the encryption processing unit using a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, and for detecting whether the image data has been altered based on a result of the decryption;

wherein the encryption processing unit generates the alteration detection data based on the encryption key, the image data, and data for identifying a photographer; and

wherein the encryption processing unit generates first data from the image data using the encryption key, generates second data from the image data using the data for identifying the

photographer, and combines the first data and the second data into the alteration detection data.

5. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system for detecting an alteration of image data obtained by photographing an object, comprising:

a camera including an image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object, and an encryption processing unit for generating alteration detection data using a built-in encryption key from the image data picked up by the image pickup unit; and

an alteration detection unit for decrypting the alteration detection data generated by the encryption processing unit using a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, and for detecting whether the image data has been altered based on a result of the decryption;

wherein the encryption processing unit generates first data from the image data using the encryption key, generates second data from the image data using data for identifying the photographer, and combines the first data and the second data into the alteration detection data.

6. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system for detecting an alteration of image data obtained by photographing an object, comprising:

a camera including an image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object, and a first encryption processing unit for

generating first alteration detection data using a built-in encryption key from the image data picked up by the image pickup unit;

an alteration detection unit for decrypting the first alteration detection data generated by the encryption processing unit using a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, and for detecting whether the image data has been altered based on a result of the decryption;

a storage unit for storing data for identifying a photographer and the encryption key; and

a second encryption processing unit for generating second alteration detection data from the data for identifying the photographer;

wherein the first encryption processing unit generates the first alteration detection data based on the encryption key, the image data, and the data for identifying the photographer; and

wherein the second encryption processing unit is removably mounted on the camera.

7. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 1,

wherein the encryption processing unit generates the alteration detection data using the encryption key from a combination of the image data and the data for identifying the photographer.

8. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system for detecting an alteration of image data obtained by photographing an object, comprising:

a camera including an image pickup unit for picking up an image of the object, and an encryption processing unit for generating alteration detection data using a built-in encryption key from the image data obtained by the image pickup unit; and

an alteration detection unit for decrypting the alteration detection data generated by the encryption processing unit using a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, and for detecting whether the image data has been altered based on a result of the decryption;

wherein the camera includes a mode selection unit for selecting at least one of an alteration monitor mode for detecting whether the image data has been altered, a secure mode for encrypting the image data transferred from the camera to the alteration detection unit, a digital watermark mode for embedding a digital watermark in the image data, and a normal mode for taking a photograph without a security function.

9. (Amended) A decryption key acquisition/registration system comprising:

a decryption key server including a decryption key storage unit for storing a unique identifier to the system and a first decryption key corresponding to a first encryption key generated as a key corresponding to the identifier, and a decryption key

output unit for generating alteration detection data for the first decryption key using the second encryption key and outputting the alteration detection data together with the first decryption key; and

a decryption key acquisition unit including a decryption key storage unit for storing the first decryption key acquired from the decryption key server through communication means, and an alteration detection unit for decrypting, using a second decryption key corresponding to the second encryption key, the alteration detection data supplied from the decryption key server through the communication means and detecting whether the first decryption key has been altered based on a result of the decryption.

10. (Amended) A digital image editing system for detecting an alteration of image data and editing the image data, comprising:

a filing management unit for filing and managing the image data input thereto through an image input unit;

an alteration detection unit for decrypting first alteration detection data attached to the image data by use of a decryption key corresponding to a first encryption key used for generating the alteration detection data, and for comparing the first alteration detection data thus decrypted with the image data thereby to detect the alteration of the image data;

an image editing unit for processing the image data; and

an image file updating unit for generating second alteration detection data using a second encryption key other than the first encryption key from the image data processed by the image editing unit and editing history data output by the image editing unit, and for adding the second alteration detection data to the edited image data.

11. (Amended) A digital image editing system according to claim 10,

wherein the image file updating unit is removably mounted on the digital image editing system, and has stored therein information for user authentication information and the second encryption key; and

wherein the second alteration detection data is generated using the second encryption key and the information for user authentication.

12. (Amended) A digital image editing system according to claim 9,

wherein the editing history data is recorded in combination with the information for user authentication.

13. (Amended) A digital image editing system according to claim 9,

wherein the image data is stored in an external medium, and the image input unit inputs the image data from the external

storage medium by connecting directly to the image filing unit or through a communication line.

14. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system for detecting an alteration of image data obtained by photographing an object, comprising:

a camera including an image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object, and an encryption processing unit for generating alteration detection data using a built-in encryption key from the image data picked up by the image pickup unit; and

an alteration detection unit for decrypting the alteration detection data generated by the encryption processing unit using a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, and for detecting whether the image data has been altered based on a result of the decryption;

wherein the image data comprises multiple resolution image data including a plurality of image data of different resolutions combined and stored in different sets; and

wherein the encryption processing unit includes a selection unit for selecting at least one image data having a desired resolution from the multiple resolution image data in order to generate the alteration detection data.

15. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 10,

wherein the image data comprises multiple resolution image data including a plurality of image data of different resolutions combined and stored in different sets; and

wherein the encryption processing unit includes a selection unit for selecting at least an image data having a desired resolution from the multiple resolution image data in order to generate the alteration detection data.

16. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system for detecting an alteration of image data obtained by photographing an object, comprising:

a camera including an image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object, and an encryption processing unit for generating alteration detection data using a built-in encryption key from the image data picked up by the image pickup unit; and

an alteration detection unit for decrypting the alteration detection data generated by the encryption processing unit using a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, and for detecting whether the image data has been altered based on a result of the decryption;

wherein the image data comprises multiple resolution image data including a plurality of image data of different resolutions combined and stored in different sets;

wherein each of the multiple resolution image data is stored in units of a predetermined small block; and

wherein the encryption processing unit generates the alteration detection data in units of the small block.

17. (Amended) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 10,

wherein the image data comprises multiple resolution image data including a plurality of image data of different resolutions combined and stored in different sets;

wherein each of the multiple resolution image data is stored in units of a predetermined small block; and

wherein the encryption processing unit generates the alteration detection data in units of the small block.

18. (Amended) A digital image editing system according to claim 10,

wherein at least a part of the image file updating unit is removably mounted on the digital image editing system, and has stored therein editor information and the second encryption key, and

wherein the second alteration detection data is generated using the second encryption key based on the image data, and data obtained by applying a predetermined function from the editing history data output by the image editing unit.

19. (New) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 4,

wherein the encryption processing unit also utilizes data obtained by application of a predetermined function to the image data to generate the alteration detection data.

20. (New) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 19,

wherein the alteration detection unit detects whether or not the image data has been altered by comparing the data obtained by application of the predetermined function to the image data with data obtained by decrypting the alteration detection data using the decryption key.

21. (New) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 5,

wherein the encryption processing unit also utilizes data obtained by application of a predetermined function to the image data to generate the alteration detection data.

22. (New) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 21,

wherein the alteration detection unit detects whether or not the image data has been altered by comparing the data obtained by application of the predetermined function to the image data with

data obtained by decrypting the alteration detection data using the decryption key.

23. (New) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 6,

wherein the encryption processing unit utilizes data obtained by application of a predetermined function to the image data to generate the alteration detection data.

24. (New) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 23,

wherein the alteration detection unit detects whether or not the image data has been altered by comparing the data obtained by application of the predetermined function to the image data with data obtained by decrypting the alteration detection data using the decryption key.

25. (New) A digital evidential camera system for detecting an alteration of image data obtained by photographing an object, comprising:

a camera including an image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object, and a first encryption processing unit for generating first alteration detection data using a built-in encryption key from the image data picked up by the image pickup unit;

an alteration detection unit for decrypting the first alteration detection data generated by the encryption processing unit using a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, and for detecting whether the image data has been altered based on a result of the decryption;

a storage unit for storing data for identifying a photographer and the encryption key; and

a second encryption processing unit for generating second alteration detection data from the data for identifying the photographer;

wherein the second encryption processing unit is removably mounted on the camera.

26. (New) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 25,

wherein the encryption processing unit utilizes data obtained by application of a predetermined function to the image data to generate the alteration detection data.

27. (New) A digital evidential camera system according to claim 26,

wherein the alteration detection unit detects whether or not the image data has been altered by comparing the data obtained by application of the predetermined function to the image data with data obtained by decrypting the alteration detection data using the decryption key.